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 SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

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SUBJECT Democratic Republic of Vietnam Independent
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INFO. [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO
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Independent Regional Units

1. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) has organized independent units (Biet Dong Doi)¹ for each canton, province and interzone of South Vietnam. These units, directly responsible to the local military intelligence bureaus, have the following assignments:
 - a. To maintain contact with their respective command posts.
 - b. To activate mass uprisings on the orders of the high command and occasionally to lend support to the espionage services.
 - c. To sabotage French commercial bases and to destroy scattered French forces by guerrilla tactics.
 - d. To cooperate with regular units in launching attacks or opening new fronts.
2. These units form the nucleus of Communist Party of Indochina (PCI) activity in the area and are staffed entirely with tested PCI sympathizers.

Units in the Saigon-Cholon Area

3. The organization of the Biet Dong Doi in the areas surrounding Saigon-Cholon differs from those of the provinces in that they are responsible directly to the Regional² Administrative and Resistance Committee and only indirectly to the regional intelligence bureaus. At present the activities of the Biet Dong Doi of Saigon-Cholon have been greatly restricted as the result of measures taken by the French Surete of South Vietnam.
4. Other DRV para-military units in the Saigon-Cholon area include:
 - a. The 950 "Death Volunteer Brigade," commanded by Cao Dang Chiem³, aka Pham Hung, who is concurrently assistant chief of the DRV Security Services for South Vietnam.

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b. A security shock unit, also organized by the Security Services.

5. These three organizations are virtually inactive at present. The DRV high command has ordered them to concentrate on internal organization and the recruitment of additional strength before engaging in further activity.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. While the strength of these units is not clear, it is probable, from the description of their activities, that they are small PCI units, organized for terrorist activity.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. This appears to refer to the Administrative and Resistance Committee of South Vietnam, rather than that of Saigon-Cholon.

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3. [REDACTED] Comment. According to a Viet Nam News Agency dispatch of 26 June 1951 confirms Chiem's position as assistant chief of the DRV Security Services of South Vietnam.

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